(e) the steps being taken to encourage more Japanese investment in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Regular dialogues are held between Government of India and Government of Japan to promote Yen loan projects in India.

(b) No specific industrial or trade project has been identified for investment through Yen loan from Japan under 2004-05 Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) loan package.

(c) to (e) A list of 19 projects have recently been posed to Government of Japan for ODA 2005-06 loan package and Government of Japan is yet to select the projecs for funding.

Trade discussions with Singapore

4340. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government held discussions at Ministerial level on trade matters with Singapore recently;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of such talks in Singapore;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) had announced that trade talks with India have reached the "last half-mile mark";

(d) if so, what are the obstacles in completing trade talks with Singapore; and

(e) which are the issues which are holding back the signing of an economic cooperation agreement to increase trade with Singapore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Ministerial level discussions were held with Singapore in New Delhi on 9th March 2005 with a view to expediting the negotiations for conclusion of India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the remarks on "last half-mile mark" were earlier

made by our Finance Minister on 28th March, 2005 during a Question and Answer session at the Inaugural Lecture of the 'Global Business Leaders Series' of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) and Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI).

(d) and (e) There are a few issues to be resolved in the areas of Trade in Services, Financial Services, Telecom, Investment and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for which negotiations with Singapore are going on.

Expert group on patents legislation

4341. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up an expert group to look into the Patents Legislation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the expert committee is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) A Technical Expert Group on certain specific Patents law issues has been set up comprising:

(i)	Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi	- Chairman
(ii)	Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	- Member
(iii)	Prof. Asis Datta, Director, National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi	- Member
(iv)	Prof. Madhav Menon, Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal	- Member
(v)	Prof. Moolchand Sharma, Director, National Law Institute University, Bhopal	- Member